AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-27 (canceled)

28. (New) A cross-arm for a utility pole for use in low to medium voltage electricity distribution and transmission, the cross-arm being metallic and coated with an insulatory coating.

29. (New) A cross-arm according to claim 28, wherein the cross-arm is formed as a hollow steel section.

30. (New) A cross-arm according to claim 28, wherein the coating is a polymeric material.

31. (New) A cross-arm according to claim 30, wherein the coating is applied by an electrolytic powder coating process, using a powder of the polymeric material.

32. (New) A cross-arm according to claim 30, wherein the polymeric material is nylon.

33. (New) A cross-arm according to claim 30, wherein the polymeric material is thermoplastic.

34. (New) A cross-arm according to claim 30, wherein the polymeric material is an epoxy.

35. (New) A cross-arm assembly comprising a cross-arm, said cross-arm being metallic and coated with an insulatory material, and a fastening system operative to fasten the cross-arm to a utility pole.

36. (New) A cross-arm assembly according to claim 35, wherein the fastening system comprises clamping means that is securable to one of either the pole or the cross-arm, the clamping means being operative to extend about the other of the pole or cross-arm to which it is secured and apply a clamping force to that member so as to fasten the cross-arm and pole together.

37. (New) A cross-arm assembly according to claim 35, wherein the fastening system includes a seat which locates under the cross-arm and which is securable to the utility pole.

38. (New) A cross-arm assembly according to claim 37, wherein the seat is formed from a metal section coated with an insulatory coating.

39. (New) A cross-arm assembly according claim 35, further comprising an extension arm which extends upwardly from the cross-arm.

40. (New) A cross-arm assembly according to claim 39, wherein the extension arm is metallic and coated with an insulatory coating.

41. (New) A cross-arm assembly according to claim 40, wherein the extension arm is formed as a hollow steel section and incorporates a coupling at its upper end operative to receive an electricity distribution wire and a second coupling at its lower end which is operative to be connected to the cross-arm.

42. (New) A cross-arm assembly according to claim 35, further comprising an insulating medium which locates between the pole and the cross-arm so as to provide an insulation barrier between the pole and cross-arm.

43. (New) A fastening system for fastening a cross-arm to a utility pole, the fastening system comprising clamping means that is securable to one of either the pole or the cross-arm, the clamping means being operative to extend about the other of the pole or cross-arm to which it is secured and apply a clamping force to that member so as to fasten the cross-arm and pole together.

44. (New) A fastening system according to claim 43, wherein the clamping means is in the form of a saddle which incorporates end portions securable to either the pole or the cross-arm and a mid portion which is operative to extend around the other of the pole or the cross-arm to which it is secured so as to apply a clamping force to that member.

45. (New) A fastening system according to claim 44, wherein the end portions of the saddle are secured to either the pole or the cross-arm by mechanical fastening.

46. (New) A fastening system according to claim 43, further comprising fastening means extending between the clamping means and the pole or cross-arm about which it extends.

47. (New) A fastening system according to claim 46, wherein the fastening means is a mechanical fastener.

48. (New) A fastening system according to claim 43, wherein the clamping means is metallic and coated with an insulatory coating.

49. (New) A fastening system according to claim 48, wherein the coating is a polymeric material.

50. (New) A fastening system according to claim 48, wherein the coating is applied by an electrolytic powder coating process, using the powder of a polymeric material.

51. (New) A utility pole assembly comprising a utility pole, a cross-arm assembly, said cross-arm assembly further comprising a metallic cross-arm coated with an insulatory coating, and a fastening system operative to fasten the cross-arm to said utility pole.

52. (New) A method of securing a cross-arm to a utility pole for use in low to medium voltage electricity distribution and transmission; the method comprising the steps of:

providing clamping means arranged to clamp the cross-arm to the utility pole;

locating the clamping means over one of the cross-arm or the utility pole; and

securing the clamping means to the other of said cross-arm or utility pole whereby on securing the clamping means, the clamping means clamps the one member to the other member to which it is secured

53. (New) A method according to claim 52, further comprising the step of:

fastening the clamping means to the one member.

54. (New) A method according to claim 52, further comprising the steps of providing an insulating medium and locating that medium between the pole and the cross-arm to provide an insulating barrier between the pole and the cross-arm.